

AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional of serial no. 09/788,330 filed February 16, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,652,830, incorporated herein by reference as if reproduced in full below.

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following corrected paragraph:

The catalyst may take any conventional form such as a powder or pellet. In some preferred configurations, the catalyst includes an underlying large pore support. Examples of preferred large pore supports include commercially available metal foams and, more preferably, metal felts. Prior to depositing the zirconia-supported, alkali-metal-modified, ruthenium catalyst, the large pore support has a porosity of at least 5%, more preferably 30 to 99%, and still more preferably 70 to 98%. Preferably, the support has an average pore size (sum of pore diameters/number of pores) of from 1 μm to 1000 μm as measured by optical and scanning electron microscopy. Preferred forms of porous supports are foams and felts. Foams are continuous structures with continuous walls defining pores throughout the structure. Felts are fibers with interstitial spaces between fibers and includes tangled strands like steel wool. Various supports and support configurations are described in U.S. Patent Applications Ser. No. 09/640,903 (filed Aug. 16, 2000), U.S. Patent No. 6,680,044 _____, which is incorporated by

reference. U.S. Patent No. 6,488,838 filed Aug. 17, 1999) is also incorporated herein.